

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING A REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Appln. No. 10/618,940

Amendment dated July 8, 2005

Reply to Office Action mailed March 8, 2005

**Amendments in the Claims:** (struck-through parts deleted and underlined parts added)

1. (currently amended) A laundry hamper device for removably receiving a plurality of clothes items, said device comprising:

a container including a bottom wall and a peripheral wall being attached to and extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said peripheral wall having an upper edge defining an opening extending into said container;

a plurality of guides being attached to an inner surface of said peripheral wall, each of said guides being vertically orientated;

a panel being positioned in said container, said panel having a top side, a bottom side and a peripheral edge, said panel being mounted on said plurality of guides such that said panel may be selectively moved between said bottom wall and said upper edge;

a lid being hingedly coupled to said upper edge for selectively closing or opening said container;

at least one biasing member being mounted in said container for biasing said panel away from said bottom wall; and

wherein said panel moves downwardly as additional clothes are positioned on said panel and said panel moves upwardly as clothes are removed from said panel;

wherein said peripheral wall has a generally rectangular horizontal cross sectional shape with a pair of side wall portions and a pair of end wall portions; and  
wherein each of said guides is positioned closely adjacent to one of said side wall portions and being spaced from each of said end wall portions.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The laundry hamper device of claim 1, wherein each of said guides generally extends between said bottom wall and said upper edge.

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4. (original) The laundry hamper device of claim 3, wherein each of said guides includes a pair of elongate members spaced from each other.

5. (original) The laundry hamper device of claim 3, wherein said panel has a size and shape generally equal to an inner perimeter of said container, said peripheral edge having a plurality of slots therein, each of said slots being positioned such that each of said guides is positioned in one of said slots.

6. (original) The laundry hamper device of claim 4, wherein said panel has a size and shape generally equal to an inner perimeter of said container, said peripheral edge having a plurality of slots therein, each of said slots being positioned such that each of said guides is positioned in one of said slots.

7. (original) The laundry hamper device of claim 6, wherein said at least one biasing member includes a plurality of biasing members, each of said biasing members being positioned between a pair of elongate members.

8. (original) The laundry hamper device of claim 7, wherein each of said biasing members comprises a spring extending between said bottom wall and said bottom side of said panel.

9. (currently amended) A laundry hamper device for removably receiving a plurality of clothes items, said device comprising:

a container including a bottom wall and a peripheral wall being attached to and extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said peripheral wall having an upper edge defining an opening extending into said container, a lid being hingedly coupled to said upper edge for selectively closing or opening said container, said peripheral wall having a generally rectangular horizontal cross sectional shape with a pair of side wall portions and a pair of end wall portions, said side wall portions having a width in a horizontal plane and said end wall portions having a width in the horizontal plane, the width of said side wall portions being greater than the width of said end

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wall portions, said side wall portions and said end wall portions converging at corners of said peripheral wall, each of said corners being characterized by an arcuate transition from one of said side wall portions to one of said side wall portions, said lid being pivotally mounted on one of said side wall portions;

a plurality of guides being attached to an inner surface of said peripheral wall, each of said guides being vertically orientated, each of said guides generally extending between said bottom wall and said upper edge, said guides being spaced from each other, each of said guides including a pair of elongate members spaced from each other, each of said guides being positioned closely adjacent to one of said side wall portions and being spaced from each of said end wall portions, each of said guides being spaced from one of said end wall portions at a distance of approximately one quarter of the width of one of the side wall portions, a pair of said guides positioned adjacent to one of said side wall portions being spaced from each other a distance approximately equal to one half of the width of said side wall portion;

a panel being positioned in said container, said panel having a top side, a bottom side and a peripheral edge, said panel being mounted on said plurality of guides such that said panel may be selectively moved between said bottom wall and said upper edge, said panel having a size and shape generally ~~equal to~~ coextensive with an inner perimeter of said container, said peripheral edge having a plurality of slots therein, each of said slots being positioned such that each of said guides is positioned in one of said slots; at least one biasing member for biasing said panel away from said bottom wall being mounted in said container and extending between said bottom wall and said panel, said at least one biasing member including a plurality of biasing members, each of said biasing members being positioned between a pair of elongate members, each of said biasing members comprising a

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spring extending between said bottom wall and said bottom side of said panel;

a plurality of clothes being removably positioned in said container and abutting said panel; and

wherein said panel moves downwardly as additional clothes are positioned on said panel and said panel moves upwardly as clothes are removed from said panel.

10. (new) The laundry hamper device of claim 1, wherein said side wall portions of said generally rectangular perimeter wall are relatively wider in a substantially horizontal plane than said end wall portions.

11. (new) The laundry hamper device of claim 1, wherein said side wall portions have a width in a horizontal plane and said end wall portions having a width in the horizontal plane, the width of said side walls being greater than the width of said end wall portions.

12. (new) The laundry hamper device of claim 11, wherein each of said guides is spaced from one of said end wall portions at a distance of approximately one quarter of the width of one of the side wall portions.

13. (new) The laundry hamper device of claim 12, wherein a pair of said guides positioned adjacent to one of said side wall portions is spaced from each other a distance approximately equal to one half of the width of said side wall portion.

14. (new) The laundry hamper device of claim 1, wherein said side wall portions and said end wall portions converge at corners of said peripheral wall, each of said corners being characterized by an arcuate transition from one of said side wall portions to one of said end wall portions.